

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A server apparatus capable of communicating with communications terminals via a network, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request from any
5 of the communications terminals;

processing means for performing a predetermined process based on the received request;

first sending means for sending results of the performed predetermined process to the requesting
10 communications terminal as a first response; and

second sending means for sending a second response containing an address needed to acquire the first response to the requesting communications terminal before sending the first response.

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2. A server apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

time measuring means for measuring an execution time of the predetermined process;

judging means for judging whether the
20 predetermined process is complete; and

control means for stopping said second sending means from sending the second response when said judging means judges that the predetermined process is
25 complete before the measured execution time exceeds a predetermined period of time.

3. A server apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

data volume measuring means for measuring a volume of data handled by the predetermined process;

5 judging means for judging whether the measured data volume exceeds a predetermined value; and

control means for stopping said second sending means from sending the second response when said judging means judges that the measured data volume does
10 not exceed the predetermined value.

4. A server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first sending means sends the first response by e-mail.

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5. A server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said communications terminal is equipped with a Web browser and the second response is provided as Web page data which can be analyzed by the Web browser.

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6. A server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the request from said communications terminal is a print request of printing image data and the predetermined process is the process of creating print
25 data based on the image data.

7. A server apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the request from any of communications terminals is a request for a service provided by the server apparatus and the predetermined process is a process of
5 commissioning an external device to settle a cost of the service.

8. A server apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
10 management means for managing status of the predetermined process,
wherein content of the second response varies depending on the managed status.

15 9. A communications method for communicating with communications terminals via a network, comprising the steps of:
receiving a request from any of the communications terminals;
20 performing a predetermined process based on the received request;
sending the requesting communications terminal a second response containing an address needed to acquire a first response which includes results of the
25 performed predetermined process; and

sending the first response to the requesting communications terminal after the second response is transmitted.

- 5 10. A computer-readable storage medium containing a program for causing a computer execute the method according to claim 9.